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General Assembly

Sixty-third session

Official Records

103rd plenary meeting
Tuesday, 11 August 2009, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann. . . . . (Nicaragua)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Beck (Solomon Islands), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: request for the inclusion of additional items on the agenda

Note by the Secretary-General (A/63/238)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now consider a request submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/63/238 relating to the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

In document A/63/238, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of his letters to the Presidents of the Security Council and General Assembly requesting that a letter dated 27 May 2009 from Judge Patrick Robinson, President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and three letters dated 29 May 2009, 15 June 2009 and 1 July 2009 from Judge Dennis Byron, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, be circulated as documents of both the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The approval of the General Assembly, as the organ that elects the judges of both Tribunals, would be needed in order to allow for the course of action proposed by the Presidents of both Tribunals, as set out in their letters to the Secretary-General.

In order for the Assembly to consider the requests contained in these letters, the Secretary-General has requested, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-third session of the Assembly of two additional items entitled "International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991" and "International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994".

Owing to the important and urgent nature of the items, unless there is an objection, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees that the relevant provisions of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which

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would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of these items in the agenda, could be waived?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to include in the agenda of the current session two additional items entitled "International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994" and "International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991" under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters"?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In his note, the Secretary-General further requests that the items be considered directly in plenary meeting. May I take it that the General Assembly, as requested by the Secretary-General, wishes to consider these items directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that the items just included become items 159 and 160, respectively, on the agenda of the current session.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The Acting President: I now invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/63/L.78, circulated under agenda item 29, "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded consideration of agenda item 29 at its 64th plenary meeting on 5 December 2008.

In order to enable the General Assembly to consider the draft decision, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 29.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of agenda item 29?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 29 to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

In order for the General Assembly to proceed expeditiously with the consideration of the draft decision issued as document A/63/L.78 under the item, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to consider agenda item 29 directly in plenary meeting under heading A, "Maintenance of international peace and security"?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of agenda item 29?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 29 (*continued*)

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Draft decision (A/63/L.78)

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft decision A/63/L.78.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to inform Member States that this oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

By paragraph 1 of the draft decision, the General Assembly would "decide to reschedule the high-level meeting to 24 September 2009, mindful of the need to ensure the participation of Member States at the ministerial level".

Pursuant to the decision of the Assembly and based on the latest conference servicing requirements communicated to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) by the New York office of the United Nations Relief and

Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), it is envisaged that the high-level event organized by UNRWA will be held in New York on 24 September 2009 for one meeting with simultaneous interpretation in all six official languages. Documentation requirements would consist of one outcome document of up to two single-space pages to be issued in all six official languages. No other documentation is foreseen at this time.

Conference servicing requirements of the high-level event is estimated at $16,300. Since conference services were planned in advance to be provided from the resources allocated for the activities of the General Assembly itself in connection with resolution 63/91, DGACM made advance provisions for this event. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft decision, there will be no additional conference servicing implications under section 2, "General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management", of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Public information requirements of the high-level event are estimated at $11,000 under section 27, "Public information", of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and include the rental of television equipment, the engagement of temporary services of a television camera director, six contractual engineering personnel, six scanning assistants and one web developer. Although provisions to implement the envisaged activities have not been included under section 27, "Public information", of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, it is anticipated that the requirements could be met from within the resources already approved under the section for the biennium 2008-2009.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/63/L.78, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/63/L.78 entitled "Commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision A/63/L.78?

Draft decision A/63/L.78 was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 29?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.